

# Thousands battle Greece fires as heatwave bakes Europe

TDT| Agencies

Greece battled a dozen major wildfires on Wednesday, including one threatening its thirdlargest city Patras, as a heatwave stoked blazes and forced the evacuation of thousands in southern Europe.

Spain, Portugal, France, Italy, the Balkans and Britain have this week wilted in high temperatures that fuel wildfires and which scientists say human-induced climate change is intensifying.

## Greece

Thousands of firefighters backed by the army deployed across Greece, with fire service spokesman Vassilis Vathrakogiannis saying “the situation remains difficult” for “forces waging a tough battle”.

“It’s a cocktail of high temperatures, strong winds... and minimal humidity,” the head of civil protection for Western Greece, Nikos Gyftakis, told public broadcaster ERT.

AFP journalists saw residents and firefighters backed by helicopters frantically attempt to douse flames in scrubland and forests outside Patras, with thick smoke reducing visibility.

Officials evacuated 12 children from a Patras hospital, Vathrakogiannis said. Eighty elderly people were removed from a retirement home, and local media footage showed the roof of a nearby 17th-century monastery



ablaze.

Other fronts were burning on the popular Ionian tourist islands of Zante and Cephalonia and the Aegean island of Chios, scarred by a huge wildfire in June that ravaged more than 4,000 hectares.

Around 20 villages were evacuated in the western Achaia region on Tuesday, while the Greek coastguard said nearly 80 people were removed from Chios and near Patras.

Vathrakogiannis said 71 people had received medical care, mostly in the western town of

Preveza and the Patras area.

After Greece requested four water bombers from the EU Civil Protection Mechanism to bolster its resources, the main opposition PASOK Socialist party questioned the conservative government’s preparedness for fires that strike every year.

“A fully reformed civil protection system with an emphasis on prevention is required,” PASOK said, identifying a poor coordination of forces and a lack of local emergency plans that made firefighting “extremely challenging”.

## Spain

Wildfires dominated the news in Spain, where flames have threatened a world heritage Roman mining site in the northwestern region of Castile and Leon. Regional authorities said almost 6,000 people from 26 localities had been evacuated from their homes, while seven people had been admitted to hospital for burns, including four in critical condition.

Interior Minister Fernando Grande-Marlaska said late Wednesday that Spain had asked

the European Union for help, including the deployment of two water-bombing planes. He urged European partners to deploy the planes quickly given “weather forecasts” that could worsen the blazes, telling broadcaster Cadena Ser radio that Spain would also request firefighter deployments if necessary.

Bushy undergrowth and searing temperatures that have baked Spain for almost two weeks had created “the worst possible breeding ground for this situation”, said Castile and Leon’s civil protection head Irene Cortes.

A total of 199 wildfires have scorched nearly 98,784 hectares (244,100 acres) across Spain this year -- more than double the area burned during the same period in 2024.

## Portugal

Neighbouring Portugal deployed more than 2,100 firefighters and 20 aircraft against five major blazes, with efforts focused on a fire in the central municipality of Trancoso that has raged since Saturday.

Strong gusts of wind had rekindled flames overnight and threatened nearby villages, where television images showed locals volunteering to help firefighters under a thick cloud of smoke.

“It’s scary... but we are always ready to help each other,” a mask-wearing farmer told Sic Noticias television, holding a spade in his hand. A separate

fire in a mountainous zone of Arganil in central Portugal smothered several villages with smoke, prompting the evacuation of elderly residents in particular.

## Balkans

Dozens of blazes stretched emergency services in the Balkans, where a severe drought and a prolonged heatwave have exacerbated the region’s traditional fire season. An 80-year-old man died in Albania late Tuesday after he lost control of a fire he had started in his garden. The blaze quickly spread to neighbouring homes, injuring eight people. Authorities have evacuated residents in parts of central and southern Albania, but easing

weather conditions in neighbouring Montenegro helped firefighters protect homes. The country mourned a soldier who died in a water truck overturn near the capital Podgorica on Tuesday, with the defence ministry speaking of a “heavy loss”.

## Britain

Historically temperate Britain sweated through its fourth heatwave of the summer, with the previously unthinkable prospect of wildfires now a real threat. A blaze in northern England’s North York Moors national park was declared a “major incident” on Wednesday and covered around five square kilometres (nearly two square miles), firefighters said.



## CONDENSED INTERIM STATEMENT FOR THE PERIOD ENDED 30 JUNE 2025

CONDENSED INTERIM STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION AS AT 30 JUNE 2025	30 JUN 2025	31 DEC 2024
Amounts are in Bahraini Dinars	Reviewed	Audited
<strong>ASSETS</strong>		
Cash and Bank Balances	12,512,105	12,992,893
Mudaraba deposit	1,150,000	1,150,000
Statutory deposit	106,643	100,967
Insurance and other receivables	903,783	939,474
Financial assets at fair value through other comprehensive income	9,772,097	10,244,348
Financial assets at fair value through profit or loss	7,713,513	7,630,825
Reinsurance contract assets	786,767	860,253
Investment property	538,357	538,357
Right of use assets	727,452	794,001
Property, plant and equipment	688,221	813,742
<strong>Total assets</strong>	<strong>34,898,938</strong>	<strong>36,064,860</strong>
<strong>Liabilities</strong>		
Reinsurance contract liabilities	61,609	182,786
Insurance contract liabilities	13,556,945	12,896,974
Lease liabilities	802,247	792,169
Other liabilities and provisions	2,571,678	3,775,023
	<strong>16,992,479</strong>	<strong>17,646,952</strong>
<strong>Equity</strong>		
Share capital	5,000,000	5,000,000
Statutory reserve	2,500,000	2,500,000
Investment Fair value reserve	84,128	81,802
Retained earnings	10,322,331	10,836,106
<strong>Total equity</strong>	<strong>17,906,459</strong>	<strong>18,417,908</strong>
<strong>Total equity and liabilities</strong>	<strong>34,898,938</strong>	<strong>36,064,860</strong>

These financial statements have been reviewed by KPMG.

These reviewed condensed interim financial information were approved, authorised for issue by the Board of Directors and signed on its behalf by:

**Abdulaziz Alnowaisir**  
Chairman

**Sameer Ebrahim Al-Wazzan**  
Vice Chairman

**Maysa A. Al-Kooheji**  
Chief Executive Officer

CONDENSED INTERIM STATEMENT OF PROFIT OR LOSS FOR THE SIX MONTHS ENDED 30 JUNE 2025	SIX MONTHS PERIOD ENDED 30/06/2025	SIX MONTHS PERIOD ENDED 30/06/2024	THREE MONTHS PERIOD ENDED 30/06/2025	THREE MONTHS PERIOD ENDED 30/06/2024
Amounts are in Bahraini Dinars	Reviewed	Reviewed	Reviewed	Reviewed
Insurance revenue	7,774,444	5,694,408	3,923,141	2,840,561
Insurance service expenses	(4,767,768)	(3,327,292)	(2,491,876)	(1,656,982)
<strong>Insurance service result before reinsurance contracts held</strong>	<strong>3,006,676</strong>	<strong>2,367,116</strong>	<strong>1,431,265</strong>	<strong>1,183,579</strong>
Allocation of reinsurance premiums	(210,127)	(157,400)	(106,471)	(79,219)
Amounts recoverable from reinsurers for incurred claims	(117,765)	(66,214)	(7,949)	6,381
<strong>Insurance service results</strong>	<strong>2,678,784</strong>	<strong>2,143,502</strong>	<strong>1,316,845</strong>	<strong>1,110,741</strong>
Insurance finance expenses for insurance contracts issued	(743,450)	(773,108)	(373,537)	(357,119)
Reinsurance finance income for reinsurance contracts held	45,092	60,228	22,092	32,611
Net financial (expense)/income	(698,358)	(712,880)	(351,445)	(324,508)
Other insurance income	858,661	741,668	418,789	373,560
<strong>Net financial results from Insurance operations</strong>	<strong>2,839,087</strong>	<strong>2,172,290</strong>	<strong>1,384,189</strong>	<strong>1,159,793</strong>
Income from investments	877,862	1,024,082	92,126	273,825
<strong>Indirect portion of income/(expenses):</strong>				
Staff costs	(74,486)	(71,636)	(37,650)	(35,681)
General and Administrative expenses	(101,055)	(88,780)	(41,049)	(43,774)
Amortisation & Depreciation	(24,315)	(22,358)	(12,121)	(11,084)
Directors' remuneration	(175,000)	(150,000)	(87,500)	(75,000)
Charity expense	(30,000)	(20,000)	(15,000)	(10,000)
Other Income	64,952	14,390	45,255	8,007
<strong>Total indirect portion of income / (expenses)</strong>	<strong>(339,904)</strong>	<strong>(338,384)</strong>	<strong>(148,065)</strong>	<strong>(167,532)</strong>
<strong>Profit before tax</strong>	<strong>3,377,045</strong>	<strong>2,857,988</strong>	<strong>1,328,250</strong>	<strong>1,266,086</strong>
Income tax provision	(390,820)	0	(390,820)	0
<strong>NET PROFIT FOR THE PERIOD</strong>	<strong>2,986,225</strong>	<strong>2,857,988</strong>	<strong>937,430</strong>	<strong>1,266,086</strong>
<strong>Basic and diluted earnings per share</strong>	<strong>597 Fils</strong>	<strong>572 Fils</strong>	<strong>187 Fils</strong>	<strong>253 Fils</strong>
<strong>CONDENSED INTERIM STATEMENT OF OTHER COMPREHENSIVE INCOME FOR THE SIX MONTH ENDED 30 JUNE 2025</strong>				
Net Profit for the Period	2,986,225	2,857,988	937,430	1,266,086
<strong>Other Comprehensive Income/(loss):</strong>				
Items that will or may be reclassified to profit or loss:				
Change in fair value of financial asset at FVOCI	2,326	(33,383)	(25,426)	(16,183)
<strong>Total comprehensive income for the period</strong>	<strong>2,988,551</strong>	<strong>2,824,605</strong>	<strong>912,004</strong>	<strong>1,249,903</strong>

## Multiple states slam new plastic pollution treaty draft

Geneva, Switzerland

Multiple countries at a UN meeting aimed at finalising a landmark global treaty against plastic pollution slammed the new draft text issued Wednesday as the talks descended into disarray.

With 30 hours left for the 184 countries attending to agree on a way forward, nations one by one took the floor to reject the proposed text put forward by the talks chair.

While the more ambitious nations blasted the dearth of legally binding action, oil-producing states from across the aisle said red lines had been crossed for them, too.

After talks chair Luis Vayas Valdivieso presented a new draft, with Thursday’s deadline approaching, matters quickly unravelled.

The European Union, Panama, Chile, Mexico and Colombia were among the delegations which rejected the proposed text.

Panama said the goal was to end plastic pollution, not get a political arrangement.